

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,833,911 B2 to Lizotte (“Lizotte”). Claim 15 is cancelled.

Claims 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 16 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 16 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Amendments

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended as requested by the Examiner. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Application No. 10/790,344
Amendment dated November 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 27, 2007

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 1 from 3 to 4, does not increase the total number of claims and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, please charge the amount of \$200.00 to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

Application No. 10/790,344
Amendment dated November 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 27, 2007

and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /John A. Dondrea/ Reg. No. 34,578
John A. Dondrea
Registration No. 34,578
Attorney for Applicants

JAD/BK/lb:bar
SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3317
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
November 27, 2007